04-535 GONZALEZ-HERNANDEZ, ET AL. V. ASHCROFT

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- 1. Whether, when the historical facts upon which an alien bases her asylum application are undisputed and an asylum applicant is credible, a court of appeals reviews the questions of nexus to and presence of political opinion and imputed opinion for substantial evidence, or under a less deferential mixed question of law and fact standard?
- 2. Whether an applicant for asylum must adduce direct evidence that she was persecuted on account of an imputed political opinion, or circumstantial evidence is sufficient to meet her burden of proof; and if circumstantial evidence is enough, then, whether the standard of proof the applicant is subject to changes when a petition for review is filed with a circuit court of appeals, or is a substantive part of an asylum claim?
- 3. Whether on the following undisputed facts any reasonable fact finder could fail to find that petitioner showed some circumstantial evidence of her persecutor's motivation: when petitioner refused to manufacture clothing for a paramilitary group, which she opposes, that group's members accused her of not wanting to help the group; immediately afterwards those members were arrested; the next day petitioner, her mother, and her son were threatened with death because of those arrests, and she was accused of informing the police and of turning her back on the group; the morning after the threats the petitioner's aunt was murdered on an empty street while walking beside petitioner's mother?